

Academic Vocabulary for Chapter 1

These are the terms you should know
as you read and analyze the stories in this chapter.

Plot A series of related events, each event connected to the next, like links in a chain.

Sequence The order in which the story's events take place. Most stories take place in **chronological order**, or time order.



Flashback A scene that interrupts the story to introduce an event that took place in the past.

Flash-forward A scene that jumps ahead of the story to narrate an event that happens in the future.

Foreshadowing Hints in the story that certain events are going to happen later.



Exposition The basic situation of a story.

Conflict A struggle between two forces. An **external conflict** can take place between two characters, between a character and a group, or between a character and an animal or a force in nature. An **internal conflict** is a struggle that takes place within a character's mind or heart.

Complications The problems that come up during the story as the characters try to resolve, or deal with, the conflict.

Suspense The excitement and tension that builds up in a story, which makes readers curious to find out how the story ends.

Climax The most exciting part of a story—the moment when the outcome of the conflict is determined. The climax usually occurs near the end of a short story.

Resolution (also called **denouement**) (dā'nōō-măn') The very end of the story, when the loose ends of the plot are tied up.



Setting The time and place in which the story happens.



Reading Standard 1.1


Identify and use the literal and figurative meanings of words and understand word derivations.

Reading Standard 3.4 (Grade 8 Review)

Analyze the relevance of the setting (e.g., place, time, customs) to the mood, tone, and meaning of the text.

Reading Standard 3.6

Analyze and trace an author's development of time and sequence, including the use of complex literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, flashbacks).

**For Further Information...**

- Be sure to read the essay on **plot** in *Holt Literature and Language Arts*, pages 2–3.
- Also, read the essay on **setting** in *Holt Literature and Language Arts*, pages 44–45.